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LETTER DATED 27 OCTOBER 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I would like to state the following.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia strongly condemns and expresses its most profound concern over the use of chemical weapons by the Muslim side in the ethnic and civil war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) situation report of 20 October 1993 states that in northern Bosnia United Nations military observers "reported that the Commander of 216 BiH Brigade admitted that chemical grenades have been used against the Bosnian Serb Army to 'show the capability' of the BiH Army".

Unfortunately, that is not the first time that the "Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina" used or threatened the use of chemical weapons. According to available information, in the area of Antrovici village, the Muslim side recently used 120 mm-mortar shells with compressed chlorine filling. Several shells have been launched but only two of them, fired on the populated area approximately 500 metres away from the position of the defence units, have been retrieved. It is obvious that those shells have been specifically constructed for poison gas and other toxic agent fillings. The examination of those shells proved that they were chlorine-filled chemical bombs. The shells retrieved and all relevant data have been made available to UNPROFOR for further analyses.

Throughout this year, several highest-ranking political and military Muslim leaders threatened the use of chemical weapons. The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia particularly wishes to draw attention to two most striking instances.

At the end of June of this year, in an interview given to the Turkish News Agency, the Muslim leader A. Izetbegovic stated that he could not rule out the use of chemical weapons if the United Nations did not exempt Muslims from an arms sales ban on the former Yugoslavia.

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

The letter of the President of the Tuzla Region and the Commander of the Second Corps of the "Armed Forces of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina", transmitted to the President of the Security Council by the Muslim representative on 24 June 1993 (S/25994), contains open threats of the use of chemical weapons. It says, inter alia, that plans have been worked out and containers prepared "with sufficient amounts of chlorine, as well as other chemical things to neutralize the living forces on the territories of almost all of Europe".

Similar threats have been made by the local commanders, particularly in the region of northern Bosnia as was reported in the media.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia considers that the Security Council should not ignore the above facts, particularly at this juncture when comprehensive efforts are invested to achieve a just and lasting peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Security Council should request UNPROFOR to investigate the United Nations military observers report of 20 October 1993 and should send a clear message to the Muslim leadership that they will be held responsible for such actions.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.